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Austin

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(54) **APPARATUS FOR CONTRACTING,
LOADING OR CRIMPING
SELF-EXPANDING AND BALLOON
EXPANDABLE STENT DEVICES**

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72/402**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for manipulating a medical device is formed of at least three coupled movable blades which are disposed about a reference circle to form an aperture whose size may be varied. The aperture capable of being sized to contain a medical device. Each blade is in communication with an actuation device which is capable of moving the blade to alter the size of the aperture. Each blade includes a single radial point which a) lies on the circumference of the reference circle prior to movement of the blade, and b) may be moved only along a radius of the reference circle on movement of the blade.

40 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets

